classification and in the problems of distribution, speciation and phylogeny is evident, for it is clear that the chromosome complex is the vital mechanism of evolution, and there are welcome signs at this meeting that the physiologists and biochemists are coming to our aid in solving the pressing problem of the modes of action of the chromosomes in development.

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INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES

ONE of the major projects of the National Research Council has been the preparation and publication of International Critical Tables of Numerical Data in Physics, Chemistry and Technology, undertaken at the request of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the International Research Council. The work of critical compilation began in 1922, and the first of the projected five large volumes was published last year. The responsibility for the editorial work has rested on Dr. E. W. Washburn, editor-in-chief; Dr. Clarence J. West, associate editor for chemistry; Dr. N. Ernest Dorsey, associate editor for physics; and Dr. F. R. Bichowsky and Dr. Alfons Klemenc, assistant editors. These responsible editors were assisted by an advisory editorial board composed of seven eminent chemists and physicists, and by ten corresponding editors and about 300 cooperating experts. The data used are derived from material in eighteen languages.

Nearly $200,000 has been expended on the compilation. This money has come as gifts from 244 firms and individuals and two major foundations (Carnegie Corporation and International Education Board). The gifts from these foundations, amounting to $70,000, were made for the special purpose of enabling the published tables to be sold at a price not prohibitive to individual buyers. Publication was undertaken by the McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., the well-known publishers of scientific books, under a special arrangement regarding selling price.

The regular price for a set of five volumes was fixed at $60, but a prepublication price of $35 a set was made to all subscribers ordering sets before the actual publication of Volume I.

The more optimistic among us estimated that we should have prepublication subscribers to the number of 1,000 to 1,500. The actual result is that 6,638 sets have been ordered at the pre-publication price of $35, and several hundred sets at the post-publication price of $60 a set. The distribution of these orders presents some interesting features.

Of the total of 6,638 sets ordered in advance of publication, 4,694 sets were ordered by individuals, 531 by libraries, 450 by educational institutions and 973 by industrial concerns.

As regards the geographical distribution of the orders a gratifying wideness in this distribution is apparent on going over the lists. The United States has ordered 4,867 sets, and foreign countries 1,771 sets. Fifty-three countries and colonies are represented in the foreign list with Great Britain and Ireland leading with 379 sets ordered, Germany next with 224 and Japan third with 146. France has ordered but 58 sets which are not as many as those ordered from Holland (91), Sweden (72) and Italy (67). Little Belgium has ordered 50 sets. Darkest Russia has ordered 27 sets, and benighted China 43 sets.

The total list of foreign countries, together with the figures of sets ordered follows: Africa, 20; Argentina, 19; Australia, 20; Austria, 37; Belgium, 50; Brazil, 5; Canada, 151; Ceylon, 1; Chile, 9; China, 43; Colombia, 2; Cuba, 10; Czechoslovakia, 37; Denmark, 31; Dutch East Indies, 17; Egypt, 1; Estonia, 4; Finland, 11; France, 58; Germany, 224; Guatemala, 1; Great Britain and Ireland, 379; Haiti, 1; Hawaii, 9; Holland, 91; Hungary, 9; Iceland, 1; India, 29; Italy, 67; Japan, 146; Jugoslavia, 4; Latvia, 3; Luxembourg, 1; Mexico, 17; New Zealand, 2; Norway, 38; Palestine, 2; Peru, 7; Philippines, 10; Poland, 12; Porto Rico, 7; Portugal, 1; Rumania, 8; Samoa, 1; Siam, 2; Soviet Russia, 27; Spain, 18; Straits Settlements, 3; Sweden, 72; Switzerland, 49; Syria, 2; Tasmania, 1; Trinidad, 1.

VERNON KELLOGG

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

EXCURSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOIL SCIENCE CONGRESS

THE national committee, which is planning for the work of the International Soil Science Congress, which is to meet in Washington on June 13, is arranging for an excursion through the United States to follow immediately after the close of the meeting on June 22.

The itinerary is now being worked out. It is planned to have the excursion go south from Washington to central North Carolina, thence across the mountains into Tennessee, southeast to Georgia, thence to Alabama and through Tennessee to southeastern Missouri, across that state to Kansas, thence either through Colorado, Utah and Nevada to California, or through Arizona and New Mexico to California, then north through Oregon and Washington to British Columbia,

east through Alberta and Saskatchewan to Manitoba, thence south through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and back to Washington. The party will travel by special train.

Stops will be made at all the experiment stations and agricultural colleges that can be reached on this trip and also a large number of additional stops are being planned to examine and study the soils in the various sections of the country. General agricultural conditions, type of crops, methods of tillage and similar features will also be taken up.

The tentative schedule for California calls for a stop in the Mojave Desert on the way in, then a day at Riverside, a day at Fresno and a day at Berkeley. The plans for these stops are not yet worked out, but provisionally, at Riverside a half day will be spent driving over that general portion of the state, visiting six selected excavations where the soil conditions can be studied and also visiting and studying citrus groves and irrigation and fertilization experiments. The afternoon will be spent at the Citrus Experiment Station studying the work that is there being carried on. At Fresno it is planned to spend a half day driving about the general region, visiting three or more representative excavations where the soil and subsoil conditions can be observed. Considerable time will be spent on the drainage and alkali reclamation tract at Kearney Park and in addition a visit will be made to the Association Packing Plant at Fresno. At Berkeley the entire time will be spent in the laboratories and greenhouses of the agricultural department.

THE SCIENTIFIC DIVISION COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

ON November 15, 1926, President Dana F. Ward appointed Lewis Radcliffe as chairman of the scientific division committee, a new division of the U. S. Fisheries Association, with instructions to select the committee and organize the group. Mr. Ward suggested that the "scientific division" would serve as an advisory committee in helping to establish the association's policy with respect to scientific investigations, to keep its members advised of advances in science and to aid in the building up of research organizations through federal, state and private agencies.

The following tentative program of operation has been evolved:

1. The branches of science selected for inclusion in the division's organization are—bacteriology, dietetics, economics, statistics and technology.

(a) Bacteriology plays a very important part in questions pertaining to the spoilage of food. Examples—reddening of cod; decomposition of canned foods; taking and marketing of oysters.

(b) Biological investigations must furnish the fundamental facts as a basis for sane legislation and to insure the highest development of our fishery resources without depletion or exhaustion.

(c) Dietetics—the fishing industry should capitalize on the revolutions of science as to man's food requirements. Aquatic products are unusually rich in elements shown to be necessary to man's well being.

(d) Economics—the accumulation of fundamental data on marketing of fish at home and abroad is basically essential to the growth, stabilization and permanence of our fisheries industries.

(e) Statistics—complete, continuous and comparable statistics of the catch are an essential to the proper husbanding of this resource; trade statistics in the fisheries industries as in others are necessary to level out the peaks and valleys of production and to serve as a stabilizing factor.

(f) Technology—through technological investigations and their application America has forged to the front in developing improvements in the methods of catching, handling and merchandising fishery products. Continued investigations on a larger scale are essential to maintenance of that position.

2. Division activities.

(a) To aid the association in developing a policy on scientific matters along broad fundamental lines.

(b) To coordinate the effort of federal, state, municipal and private scientific fisheries research agencies; promote harmony; and when requested, to advise such agencies as to lines of research which promise to be of greatest benefit to the fullest development of our fisheries for the common good of our people.

(c) To keep those engaged in American fisheries informed as to the advances made in the several sciences affecting fisheries. This would include reviews of scientific articles not easily accessible and their interpretation.

The scientific division committee consists of thirty-four members, divided into six sections. Dr. P. B. Parsons, New York Conservation Commission, Albany, is chairman of the bacteriology section; Elmer Higgins, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, of the biological section; Dr. D. K. Tressler, Mellon Institute, of the dietetics section; L. T. Hopkinson, U. S. Tariff Commission, Washington, of the economics section; J. H. Mathews, New York City, of the statistical section, and H. F. Taylor, Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co., New York City, of the technological section.

FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH

AMONG the candidates recommended by the council for election as fellows of the Royal Society of Edin-